



COUNCIL

“The mission of the Council is to represent the citizens of Cook Inlet in promoting environmentally safe marine transportation and oil facility operations in Cook Inlet”

BRIEFS

CISPRI Test Tank Makes Debut

In its ongoing efforts to improve oil spill response capabilities for Cook Inlet, the oil spill response cooperative Cook Inlet Spill Prevention and Response, Inc. (CISPRI) built a test tank (pictured below) at their facilities in Nikiski. CISPRI provided Cook Inlet RCAC, ADEC, the USCG, and other spill response agencies an opportunity to inspect the tank and to observe the first skimmer test.

“After visiting the tank facility at Ohmsett, I thought, we can do this same testing in Nikiski and save ourselves a trip to New Jersey,” said CISPRI General Manager, Todd Paxton.



The test tank is significantly smaller than the 665 foot long by 65 foot wide tank at the Ohmsett facility. CISPRI’s tank measures 12 foot by 12 foot and is 4 feet deep. The tank is filled with saltwater that is mixed to replicate the salinity of Cook Inlet.

“Our tank is quite a bit smaller. However, when we conducted the tests at Ohmsett, we used a very small area,” explained Mr. Paxton.

The tank serves two purposes. First, CISPRI now has the opportunity to test its equipment to verify that it will perform as expected. Secondly, the spill technicians will be able to use the equipment to actually clean up oil.

“During all of our open water deployments, we would do everything right up until the equipment hit the water and then we would ‘pretend’ to clean up oil,” said Mr. Paxton. “With the tank, we can now introduce oil into the equation and allow our personnel to gain valuable experience that they weren’t able to get before.”

[Read about the skimmer test on page 7](#)

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2010 COUNCIL

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Municipality of Anchorage

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Public Involvement: RCAC Sponsors ROV Club

Our Public Involvement Program has sponsored a 4H club centered on building remote oceanic vehicles, or ROVs. Our sponsorship provides materials to build 5 ROVs this year. The ROVs will be dismantled at the end of the year and many of the parts will be recycled for next year's club. The University of Fairbanks has donated a camera that can be attached to the vehicle so that images can be seen above water on a monitor.

The club is headed up by Tustumena Elementary teacher Shiona Werner and is made up of six Tustumena Elementary sixth-graders. Assisting with the program are Cook Inlet RCAC Director of Public Outreach Trent Dodson and local oceanographer Dr. Steve Okkonen.

While ROVs have many real life commercial applications, the club will focus on building them, testing them in the Skyview High School pool, and then bringing them to Peterson Bay for a marine water test.

The ROVs will be created from simple switches, wires, small motors and pvc pipe. Students will learn to solder, wire and test their units, as well as calibrate

them for the drag that the long cables, switch box, and monitor create.

Seaperch is a national group that holds ROV competitions and workshops.

Check out photos and video at:
www.seaperch.mit.edu



A student prepares his ROV for deployment during a competition.
- photo courtesy of Seaperch

Annual Report

Our 2009 Annual Report is now available. Read about Cook Inlet RCAC's 2009 activities from updating the ShoreZone image database to our continued involvement in workshops and conferences.

For an electronic copy, visit the **OUTREACH** section at www.circac.org. To request a free hard copy email our Director of Public Outreach, Trenten Dodson at dodson@circac.org or call our Kenai office at 907-283-7222.





VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Each year, since 2000, we recognize one outstanding Board or Committee member who, through their volunteer work, has made a sizable contribution to the Council. This honor is our Captain Glen Glenzer Memorial "Volunteer of the Year" Award. At our Annual Meeting in March, the 2009 award went to Gary Fandrei, the Aquaculture Interest Group Representative.

Mr. Fandrei is currently in his second term in the Aquaculture seat. He served as the Council's Secretary/Treasurer in 2009 and was elected to serve as Vice President for 2010. As Secretary/Treasurer he was chair of the Audit Committee and a member of the Executive Committee.

In 2010 Mr. Fandrei will continue his service on the Audit and Executive Committees as well as the Credentials Committee.

Outside of his volunteer work with the RCAC, Mr. Fandrei also serves as a member of the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council's Public Advisory Committee (PAC), as a Deputy Commander of the Kenai Composite Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol, and recently served on the Finance Subcommittee and the Hatchery Subcommittee of the Alaska Legislative Task Force on Salmon Fisheries. He is also the Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association's representative for the United Fishermen of Alaska.

"Gary's attention to detail has been instrumental in our efforts to update our by-laws and policies," said Assistant Executive Director Karen Delaney. "We appreciate everything he does for us and are looking forward to continue working with him in 2010."



GARY FANDREI

Gary Fandrei is the Executive Director for the Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association.

Mr. Fandrei has a B.S. degree with a major in Ecosystems Analysis from the University of Wisconsin - Green Bay and an M.S. degree with a major in Environmental Biology from the University of Minnesota - Duluth.

He is a Certified Fisheries Professional by the American Fisheries Society and has earned a Certificate in Non-profit Management from the Foraker Group.



Council President Molly McCammon presents Gary Fandrei with the 2009 Captain Glen Glenzer Memorial "Volunteer of the Year" Award.

DID YOU KNOW?

- John Douglas has won the Volunteer of the Year Award a record four times.
- The first Volunteer of the Year was Captain Glen Glenzer, for whom the Award is named.
- Last year the Volunteer of the Year honor was awarded posthumously to Vern McCorkle.

INTEREST GROUP SPOTLIGHT



Commercial Fishing

Commercial Fishing contributes greatly to the history and diversity of the Cook Inlet region and those involved in the industry have a substantial investment to protect. Through their representatives on the Cook Inlet RCAC, commercial fishing interests have a voice in promoting environmentally safe marine transport and oil facility operations in Cook Inlet.

For thousands of years Native Alaskans have engaged in subsistence fisheries in area rivers. Russian settlers also consumed fish for sustenance and early salteries attempted to preserve fish for later consumption. Industrialization and the development of the canning process made commercial fishing viable on a large scale. Following Alaska's purchase from Russia in 1867, the prospect of lucrative untapped fisheries lured California and Pacific Northwest packing companies to Alaska.

Early canneries operated primarily with labor imported from the West Coast. Chinese and European immigrants comprised the majority of this labor force, while Native Alaskans rounded out the remainder. For many years, both early canneries and Cook Inlet and Kodiak residents used the fish trap to catch salmon. Today, several types of gear are commonly employed

by the modern fisheries within our region - the purse seine, the drift gillnet, the set gillnet, and the trawl net.

A **purse seiner** targets salmon or herring by encircling them with a long net. The net, with its top suspended at the surface by floats, hangs like a curtain around the fish until the bottom of the net is drawn closed like a bag.

As long as 900 feet, the **drift gillnet** targets sockeye, chum, and coho salmon and is released from the boat with floats on the top and weights on the bottom. The net's mesh is just

use gillnets, except that the nets are anchored to the bottom, just offshore from the beaches and range up to 630 feet in length.

Trawling is a method of fishing that involves actively pulling a trawl through the water behind one or more trawlers. Trawls are fishing nets that are dragged along the bottom of the sea, typically for groundfish, or in midwater at a specified depth.

Commercial fishing remains a vital part of the area's economy and culture. Organizations like Cook Inlet

2010 Commercial Fishing Member Groups

Alaska Driggers Association	Kodiak
Alaska Groundfish Data Bank	Kodiak
Kenai Peninsula Fishermen's Association	Soldotna
North Pacific Fisheries Association	Homer
Northern District Setnetter Association	Anchorage
United Cook Inlet Drift Association	Soldotna

large enough to catch the fish behind the gills, a technique that reduces incidental catch of other species.

In the Cook Inlet region, **set gillnet** or **setnetters** primarily target sockeye salmon. Setnetters use skiffs to bring fish to shore. Like the drift fleet, they

RCAC help keep the productive waters of Cook Inlet safe for future generations of fishermen.

The Commercial Fishing Interest Group Representative is **Jay Stinson**, of Kodiak.





Funding for Risk Assessment:

APPROVED

In February, the Kenai Peninsula Borough (KPB) Assembly approved the ordinance that allowed the acceptance and appropriation of a \$250,000 grant from the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) to the Cook Inlet RCAC.

The appropriation will allow us to begin the long-anticipated Cook Inlet Navigation Risk Assessment.

For over a decade the Council has worked to obtain a comprehensive navigational risk assessment for Cook Inlet. In 1999, Cook Inlet RCAC sponsored a forum to address concerns over navigational safety in Cook Inlet. The attending representatives from environmental organizations, the oil industry, Native leaders, state and federal elected officials, United States Coast Guard (USCG), and the ADEC determined that a risk

assessment was a critical first step in establishing additional spill prevention safeguards in Cook Inlet. Since that time, our organization has worked to secure funding for such an assessment.

In response to the 2006 T/V *Seabulk Pride* incident, Cook Inlet RCAC hosted another two-day forum in Anchorage in February 2007. Once again, major industry, regulatory, municipal, and environmental stakeholders from across the region met to identify risks and discuss potential safeguards for the Inlet. The objective of the event was to develop recommendations to improve navigational safety through regulations, interventions, or additional research and study.

A major point of discussion at the 2007 forum focused on our renewed request for a comprehensive navi-

gational risk assessment to identify deficiencies and to help implement measures that make vessel traffic safer in Cook Inlet. Attendees and members of the panel supported the risk assessment and called on the State of Alaska and the USCG to fund the endeavor, an essential first step to accomplish the study.

With limited funding, the Cook Inlet RCAC is doing what it can to help understand and minimize navigational hazards and risks in Cook Inlet. However, to provide regulatory agencies and mariners with an entire understanding of the risks involved in navigating Cook Inlet, it is imperative that we conduct a comprehensive navigation risk assessment. The work done with the funds provided by the ADEC and the KPB will be a good start.

UPDATE: M/V *Monarch*

Ocean Marine Services, Inc. (OMSI), owners of the M/V *Monarch*, issued a report that states the presence of the sunken vessel does not present a threat to recreational or commercial resource uses in the area of the wreck. The report concludes with the recommendation that the wreck of the *Monarch* should be left in place in order to reduce/prevent any further risks. The M/V *Monarch* sank in January 2009 when ice pinned the vessel against the legs of the Granite Point platform. Coast Guard officials will ultimately decide the fate of the *Monarch* and whether it should be moved or can remain on the floor of Cook Inlet.

DID YOU KNOW?

- The *Monarch* is 166 feet long and contained an estimated 34,000 gallons of diesel fuel when it sank.
- A tote aboard the vessel was found on Afognak Island.
- Over 25 dives were done during the de-fueling operations.

Skimmer Technology

Crucial, Inc. is a manufacturer of containment, recovery and removal equipment for oil spill response situations. The company has completed a successful year-and-a-half research and development project for a coated-disc skimmer system. The new skimmer utilizes fabric covered discs for the recovery and removal of crude oil. The fabric covering multiplies the oleophilic (strong affinity for oil) surface of the disc many times over and increases the skimmer's oil recovery rate.

According to Crucial, testing at the Ohmsett facility in New Jersey has "proven substantial increases in efficiency" (up to 87% using most current 2008 ASTM procedure) and "less emulsification" when compared to other systems.

Mark Ploen from Qauli Tech Environmental, and a consultant on the project presented information on the skimmer to the Council in December. Following his presentation, Mr. Ploen provided a live demonstration comparing the fabric covered disc to a conventional "smooth" disc. The oil recovery of the fabric covered disc was much higher than the conventional disc.

To add to its spill response inventory, CISPRI has ordered two 54 disc skimmers from Crucial.



Skimmer Specs

- **floating marine grade aluminum skimmer head utilizing 4 sets of coated discs**
- **capable of recovery of 200 m³/hr of pure oil (88 disc system)**
- **removable disc bank covers prevent splash over to protect the discs in waves**
- **an isolated recovery / scraper environment lends itself to heating to prevent freezing of discs or scraper blades.**



CISPRI Test Tank

Cook Inlet Spill Prevention and Response, Inc. (CISPRI) debuted their new test tank with a two-day skimmer test. The tests were supervised by Steve Potter of S.L. Ross, a consulting firm specializing in oil spills. Mr. Potter is also an active member of the F20 Committee on Hazardous Substances and Oil Spill Response within the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM). He has also authored standards on containment booms, skimmers, pumps, storage devices, and in situ burning.

The test protocol involved floating three inches of Alaska North Slope Crude Oil on Cook Inlet seawater in the test tank. To begin the testing, a skimmer was lowered into place and charged or primed (saturated with oil). Then the skimmer was operated until one inch of the crude oil was removed from the test tank. The time it took to complete the oil removal was factored into the known quantity removed from the test tank and the amount recovered in the associated storage tank, along with any recovered water. This calculation yields the recovery and efficiency rate. The test was run multiple times at different skimmer speeds in order to establish optimum operation settings. The test was then run several more times at the optimum settings to establish the best recovery and efficiency rate.

The skimmers tested were the Foxtail vertical adhesion band skimmer and the Lori Brush Skimmer.

A Foxtail skimmer (pictured at right) consists of a large hopper fitted with two sets of wringer rollers and eight polypropylene ropes reeved through the wringer rollers and tied in a large loop. The ropes have the appearance of a feather boa (inset circle). When the ropes are rotated through oil, the oil adheres to the surface of the polypropylene strands, is lifted to the wringer rollers, squeezed off into the hopper, and is transported by gravity into a storage tank.

A Lori Bush skimmer consists of a set of bush segments with bristles of approximately two inches in length that form a chain. The chain of brushes is wrapped around a set of drive rollers set into a long inclined frame. There are three chains set next to each other on the frame. As the brush chain contacts oil, the oil adheres to the surface of the brushes' bristles and is carried up the inclined plane to a "V" shaped scraper plate that scrapes the oil from the brushes and into a hopper. The hopper is fitted with a pump to transport the recovered oil to a storage tank.

Though the final results of the tests have not been tabulated yet, we are encouraged to see CISPRI's proactive approach to testing their equipment and training their personnel.



DID YOU KNOW?

- CISPRI is a spill response cooperative whose membership is comprised of the Cook Inlet oil companies.
- Prior to becoming "CISPRI" in 1991, the organization was named the Cook Inlet Resource Organization or CIRO.
- CISPRI will soon be launching a website.

For more test photos check out our photo gallery at

www.circac.org

We're turning 20!

*Proudly representing the **citizens** of Cook Inlet in promoting **environmentally safe** marine transportation and oil facility operations in Cook Inlet since **1990**.*

Following the oil spill caused by the T/V *Exxon Valdez* in March 1989, the United States Congress passed the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (OPA 90). Section 5002 of OPA 90 called for and set up two Regional Citizen Advisory Councils, one in Prince William Sound and one in Cook Inlet. Shortly after the passage of OPA, Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council began organizing and held its first board meeting in August 1990. The following year, Cook Inlet RCAC was certified by President George H.W. Bush as the “alternative advisory group” for Cook Inlet. The certification was presented by Alaskan senator Frank Murkowski (R). Cook Inlet RCAC received its first United States Coast Guard certification in July of 1992 and has been re-certified in all subsequent years.

